

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 L-03 H-02 DHA-02 NSC-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00

INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 AID-05

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P 231845Z JUL 76

FM AMEMBASSY ASUNCION

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7924

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE ASUNCION 3058

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SHUM, PA

SUBJ: CONGRESSIONAL HEARINGS ON HUMAN RIGHTS IN PARAGUAY
AND URUGUAY

REF: STATE 181279

1. IN RESPONSE TO SPECIFIC QUESTIONS RAISED PARA 5
REFTEL, EMBASSY SUBMITS THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION:

A. CHASE SARDI'S ID DOCUMENTS HAVE NOT YET BEEN
RETURNED TO HIM.

B. WE UNDERSTAND THAT CHASE SARDI IS STILL UN-
DECIDED ABOUT HIS FUTURE - WHETHER TO STAY IN PARAGUAY
AND RESUME HIS WORK AS AN ANTHROPOLOGIST SPECIALIZING
ON INDIANS, OR TO ACCEPT OFFERS OF TEACHING FELLOW-
SHIPS FROM THE INTER-AMERICAN FOUNDATION OR THE FREE
UNIVERSITY OF BERLIN.

C. OF THE THREE PERSONS ARRESTED ALONG WITH CHASE
SARDI, TWO, GLORIA ESTRAGO AND VICTORIO VILLALBA
SUAREZ, WERE MEMBERS OF THE PROJECT MARANDU STAFF.
THE THIRD, MAURICIO SCHVARTZMAN, WAS A
PROFESSOR AT CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY WHO HAD
MADE A STUDY FOR MARANDU ON A CONTRACT BASIS, BUT
WAS NOT A MEMBER OF THE PROJECT ITSELF. THERE
IS NO INDICATION THAT THESE THREE WILL SOON BE

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RELEASED. WE HAVE HEARD THAT THE GOVERNMENT IS

PLANNING TO CHARGE THEM FORMALLY UNDER ANTI-SUBVERSIVE LAWS AND TRY THEM IN COURT.

D. THE CONSEJO INDIGENA HAS NOT YET BEEN GRANTED LEGAL STANDING. THE EMBASSY HAS DISCUSSED THIS WITH RESPONSIBLE GOP OFFICIALS AND HAS BEEN ASSURED THAT LEGAL STATUS WILL BE GRANTED SOON.

E. AT PRESENT, THE PROSPECTS ARE THAT ONE OF THE FOUR FRIENDSHIP MISSION PERSONNEL UNDER DETENTION MAY BE RELEASED SHORTLY. WE UNDERSTAND THE OTHER THREE HAVE MADE FORMAL STATEMENTS ADMITTING THEIR INVOLVEMENT WITH THE OPM TERRORIST ORGANIZATION AND WILL BE CHARGED AND TRIED AS SUBVERSIVES.

2. THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION IS PROVIDED TO SUPPLEMENT MATERIAL ALREADY AVAILABLE TO THE DEPARTMENT FOR ITS RESPONSE TO THE QUESTIONNAIRE SET FORTH IN PARAS ONE THROUGH FOUR OF REFTEL.

A. PARA 1(B) AND (D), REFTEL. THE TRIAL OF THE 13 POLITICAL PRISONERS REPORTED ASUNCION 0676 HAS NOT BEEN COMPLETED. TO OUR KNOWLEDGE THESE ARE THE ONLY PRISONERS DETAINED UNDER THE STATE OF SIEGE PROVISIONS WHO HAVE BEEN BROUGHT TO TRIAL. THESE TRIALS ARE BEING CONDUCTED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE NORMAL PROCEDURES IN PARAGUAY, INCLUDING REPRESENTATION BY COUNSEL AND THE RIGHT TO CALL WITNESSES. THE MINISTER OF INTERIOR RECENTLY INFORMED US THAT THE GOP INTENDS TO MAKE IT A GENERAL POLICY TO BRING TO TRIAL ALL THOSE DETAINEES AGAINST WHOM THERE IS SOLID EVIDENCE, AND RELEASE THE REST. (SEE ASUNCION 2617).

B. PARA 1 (E) OF RETEL. IN ITS PROTEST STATEMENT OF JUNE 12, 1976, THE PARAGUAYAN CONFERENCE OF (CATHOLIC) BISHOPS STATED THAT "...THERE IS MORE THAN ONE CASE OF DETAINED PERSONS DYING OF DISAPPEARING UNDER MYSTERIOUS CIRCUMSTANCES." THE MAJOR OPPOSITION PARTY NEWSPAPER "EL RADICAL" HAS PUBLISHED THE NAMES OF THREE PERSONS WHO REPORTEDLY DIED WHILE IN DETENTION OVER THE PAST TWO MONTHS.

BRIGGS

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